

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3249

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016

Genetically Modified Seeds

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce genetically modified seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the ongoing field trials of genetically modified Brinjal, Potato and other crops; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that genetically modified seeds are not distributed to the farmers by the private companies illegally?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) Genetically Modified (GM) sorghum, brinjal, banana, tomato and castor possessing disease and insect resistance have been developed and ready for biosafety examination. Based upon the biosafety measures and Biosafety Research Level – I trial (BRL – I), Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) permitted to conduct BRL - II trial of DMH 11. However, Bt cotton is the only GM crop approved for cultivation in India subsequent to extensive evaluation and regulatory process in 2002. ICAR strongly supports development of science led technology including GM research.

(b) Proposals to conduct confined field trials (BRL - II) of genetically modified crops such as cotton, maize, brinjal and potato were received by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC). GEAC also approved some of them for field trials.

(c) Genetically modified seeds cannot be introduced without elaborate food and environmental safety assessment along with performance following regulatory guidelines and procedures. The GEAC administered by MoEF&CC is the nodal statutory body for approval of field trials and environmental release of genetically modified crops.
